

REMARKS

Claims 13 through 20, 36 through 45, 57 and 58 are presently pending. In an office action mailed March 16, 2004 (Paper no. 03122004), the specification was objected to as claiming priority to the incorrect application. Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Halaby*. Claims 13-16 and 36-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Soltys*. Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Soltys* in view of *Halaby*. Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Soltys* in view of *Hogan*. The Applicant appreciates the indication by the Examiner that claims 18 and 19 are drawn to allowable subject matter. New claims 57 and 58 are herewith presented for examination, and are believed to be allowable over the prior art.

Objections to the Specification

The specification stands objected to as failing to claim priority to the proper application. Applicant notes that the Examiner has also made the same typographical error in noting the objection, namely, the Examiner has requested that the priority application be corrected to 10/116,632, when in fact the correct priority application is 10/116,362. The specification has been amended to reflect the correct serial number and the corresponding issued patent.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Halaby*. In particular, it is asserted that *Halaby* discloses a cheque value system having a plurality of keys, where each key is associated with a cheque value. Claims 13-16 and 36-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Soltys*. In particular, it is asserted that *Soltys* discloses a cheque value system and a wager system generating wager data that is representative of wagers at a table game. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Halaby fails to provide a basis for the rejection of claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as it fails to disclose each element of the claimed invention. In particular, claim 17 includes "a cheque value system having a *plurality* of keys, wherein *each key* is associated with a cheque value, the cheque value system receiving one or more cheque value selections and providing the cheque value selections to the table game system." In contrast, *Halaby* discloses at col. 4, lines 5-35 and Figure 1 a system having columns 22, 24, 26, 42, 44, 46, 62, 64, 66, 82, 84, and 86. These

columns are not keys – they only *represent* a value of an amount of cheques that are available for a player to bet, and cannot receive a selection. Note that this terminology is used by *Halaby* - e.g. "Tabletop sections 20, 40 and 60 contain elongated vertical columns 22-24-26, 42-44-46 and 62-64-66 graphically divided into sections *representing* chips belonging to said first, second and third players. . . ." The only way to enter a cheque value is through bet/call switches 32, 52, and 72, or raise switches 34, 54 and 74. However, the number of cheques that can be bet/call or raised is not set through one or more cheque value selections through a plurality of keys, but rather through a keyboard 94, that allows a designated dealer to set the parameters of the game. Thus, if a player wanted to bet two \$1 cheques but the dealer had set the minimum bet to be \$5, then selection of the bet/call switch 32, 52 or 72 would only result in selection of a \$5 cheque, and not two \$1 cheques. As such, *Halaby* fails to disclose "a *plurality* of keys, wherein *each key* is associated with a cheque value," but only a plurality of sections representing chips and a plurality of switches associated with a predetermined amount for betting/calling and raising. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 17 over *Halaby* is respectfully requested.

Likewise, the rejection of claims 13-16 and 36-45 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Soltys* is also improper, as *Soltys* fails to disclose each element of the claimed invention. For example, claim 13 includes "a cheque value system receiving one or more cheque value selections and providing the cheque value selections to the table game system." In contrast, *Soltys* discloses at col. 9, lines 26-62, col. 11, lines 32-42, and col. 13, lines 16-23 a system that determines an amount that has been bet by a player through image data analysis techniques. As such, it does not receive cheque value selections, but rather, only receives image data and determines from the image data the value of a number of cheques that has been set out by a player. Likewise, claim 36 as amended includes "a wager system generating wager data by user selection of two or more keys, where each key is associated with a different cheque value." *Soltys* simply fails to disclose this, as does *Halaby*. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 13-16 and 36-45 is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Soltys* in view of *Halaby*. Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Soltys* in view of *Hogan*. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

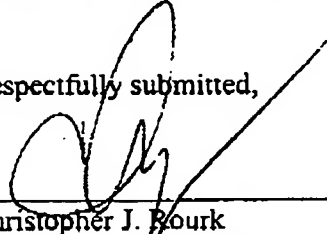
Soltys in view of *Halaby* fails to provide a prima facie basis for the rejection of claim 16, because they fail to disclose each element of the claimed invention. As previously discussed, *Halaby* fails to disclose that "the cheque value system further comprises a plurality of keys, wherein each key is associated with a cheque value," and only discloses switches having a predetermined function such as bet/call or raise, each with an associated number of chips that is selected by the dealer. As such, each switch is not associated with a cheque value, but rather with a game function. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Soltys in view of *Hogan* fails to provide a prima facie basis for the rejection of claim 20, because it fails to disclose each element of the claimed invention. As noted above, *Soltys* fails to disclose "a cheque value system receiving one or more cheque value selections and providing the cheque value selections to the table game system." *Hogan* also fails to disclose such a cheque value system. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

No additional fee is believed to be due with this preliminary amendment. If any required fee has been overlooked, the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or to credit any fee overpayment relating to this matter to Deposit Account No. 01-0657.

Respectfully submitted,


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